

APPENDIX A3

The invention in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/827,267 (filed on April 5, 2001) is featured by that while an address management table is set to a network node apparatus employed in an IP transfer network, the means for registering an address of a terminal into this address management table (refer to Japanese Patent Application No. 128956/1999) is applied to the multicast technique, which will now be described. As a network in which an IP transfer network is operated/managed by a communication company, a network node apparatus is provided in this IP transfer network. Since the IP addresses of the IP terminals are registered into the network node apparatus, the IP packet transmission by the multicast method with improving the information security performance can be realized. When such an IP packet containing a multicast IP address which is not yet registered into the network node apparatus is received, this received IP packet is discarded (IP address filtering operation).